

# Career paths for SSH PhDs

## Outside academia

Kirsten Leufgen, Clara Roujeau, SCIPROM  
TiGRE Young Scholars' Workshop  
09 June 2022  
Utrecht, Netherlands

# Overview

- » Who am I? What am I looking for?
- » Opportunities
- » Exchange platforms
- » Round table: perspectives from TiGRE advisors

# Who am I? What am I looking for?

**AMBITIONS**

**ON STAGE OR  
BACKSTAGE?**

**WORK/LIFE  
BALANCE**

**FROM RESEARCH  
TO APPLICATION**

**MY PREFERRED  
ROLE  
AND TASKS?**



**FINANCIAL  
SECURITY**

**MY PERSONAL  
STRENGTHS  
AND WEAKNESSES**

**WHAT IS  
DRIVING ME?**

**DEPENDENCIES  
AND FLEXIBILITY**

# Opportunities

- » Higher education and research administration
- » Research funding agencies
- » Communications and publishing
- » Consulting
- » Financial services
- » Non-profit organisations
- » Think tanks and research centres
- » Entrepreneurship
- » Freelance and independent consulting

# Higher education and research administration

- » **Student and academic affairs:** academic advice; career services; student activities; diversity and inclusion; international student exchanges, alumni ...
- » **Research funding:** from proposal writing to grant management and controlling
- » **Writing, teaching, and learning centres:** to support (i) undergraduates on their writing or study skills, (ii) advanced degree students to improve their teaching skills
- » **Research policies,** programme development and strategies

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Research funding agencies

- » National and international agencies
- » Programme development
- » Call for proposals, evaluations
- » Project supervision once funded

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Communications and publishing

- » Academic publishing: journals, books, theses...
- » Non-academic publishing: newspapers, magazines, and online publications; media outlets
- » Research, Public Affairs, and Communications Offices: to prepare and analyse data and achievements; to produce internal and external news and magazines

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Consulting

- » To conduct detailed industry analyses, benchmark comparable organisations, strategic advice ...
- » In corporations, governments, and non-profit organisations
- » Examples: Columbia Graduate Consulting Club; Boston Consulting Group; McKinsey; Deloitte ...

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table



# Financial services

- » Sales and trading, product development, analytics, risk monitoring and assessment, ...
- » Skills acquired in quantitative social science fields: advanced quantitative research and programming skills, statistics, stochastic calculus, experience working with large data sets...
- » Examples: Banks, hedge funds, trading companies...

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Non-profit organisations

- » Dedicated to health, environment, ethnicities, education, religion, arts, marginalized groups ...
- » Charitable organisations, advocacy groups, professional societies, research institutes ...
- » Research, fundraising and grant management, programme evaluation and development; advice, activism ...

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Think tanks and research centres

- » Programme evaluation, market research, public opinion research...
- » Often linked to matters of government policy: foreign policy, security, microeconomic policy, social policy...
- » Analysts to support the research process by collecting and analysing data
- » List of EU Think Tanks at [https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/think\\_tank\\_search/hks/think\\_tank\\_search/non\\_US#s-lg-box-wrapper-7436264](https://guides.library.harvard.edu/hks/think_tank_search/hks/think_tank_search/non_US#s-lg-box-wrapper-7436264)

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Entrepreneurship

- » To create a niche market
- » To address a social need
- » To turn your idea into a business

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Freelance and independent consulting

- » Any of the above
- » Independent, on a project base, for various employers
- » Highly flexible, at your own risk

- **Opportunities**
- Exchange platforms
- Round table

# Exchange platforms

- » European University Foundation  
<https://uni-foundation.eu>
- » PhD Hub  
<https://phdhub.eu>
- » EURODOC  
<http://www.eurodoc.net>
- » Euraxess, see presentation on career in academia  
<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu>

- Opportunities
- **Exchange platforms**
- Round table

# European University Foundation EUF

- » <https://uni-foundation.eu>
- » Network of European universities
- » Promote high quality student mobility
- » Foster policy reform and contribute to the further development of the Erasmus programme
- » Knowledge exchange community
- » Project manager and advisor communities
- » Network activities

- Opportunities
- **Exchange platforms**
- Round table

# EURODOC

- » European council of doctoral candidates and junior researchers
- » <http://www.eurodoc.net>
- » Foster education, research and professional development
- » Advance the quality of doctoral programmes and the standards of research activity in Europe
- » Information exchange and events
- » Debate, higher education and research policies in Europe
- » Promote cooperation between national associations

- Opportunities
- **Exchange platforms**
- Round table



# PhD Hub

- » <https://phdhub.eu>
- » Bring together PhD candidates, academic and non-academic partners to create a relevant hub for research and innovation
- » Online platform to match the research interests in Europe from the public and private sectors
- » Meeting point to connect socio-economic actors, researchers and early-stage researchers => industry-driven research
- » Search opportunities: open positions, cooperation calls
- » Networking
- » Access to free resources: open courses...

- Opportunities
- **Exchange platforms**
- Round table

# Thank you very much!



SCIPROM Sàrl  
Rue du Centre 70  
1025 St-Sulpice  
Switzerland

[clara.roujeau@sciprom.ch](mailto:clara.roujeau@sciprom.ch)

[kirsten.leufgen@sciprom.ch](mailto:kirsten.leufgen@sciprom.ch)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No **870722 (TiGRE)**.

# Perspectives from TiGRE external advisors

- » Martha Baxter: OECD
- » Femke de Vries: &samhoud consultancy

- Opportunities
- Exchange platforms
- **Round table**